TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1998

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Nancy Marsden KD4ITX 268-3990
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The club voted to support this year's Field Day operations and guess what! We still need a volunteer to chair this event. In the meantime with the help of Sherry and a few other hard working members, I am starting the planning and preparations. If Field Day is to be a success, we need a good chairperson. Call me if you can help.

Roe, KF4NKL has been selected from a fine slate of candidates to be the one to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors left by Bob, W4VQB. Roe, we extend to you a big welcome and are looking forward to working with you.

Bill, W3QFF, his wife, and Jeff their son paid us a visit Sunday, March 22. There was a gang who met Bill and his family at the Elks Club for Breakfast. Bill is a long time friend of many of the TARC members and others who faithfully check into the Sunday Morning (6:00 AM) Net on 7.165 Mhz. For those who would like to join us each Sunday morning on 40 meters you know you are welcome. The net is chaired by Les, K4SJC and Charlie KR4YZ.

My apologies to the club for the boo boo in the printing of the club roster which was intended to be available to attendees at the past two club meetings. There have been several members who have requested a roster. I will put forth an extra effort to print correct copies and have them available at the next club meeting. If you wish to have a roster before then, please contact me and I will see that you get a copy.....see page 2

THE CLUB IS MISSING SIGNS FROM LAST YEAR'S HAMFEST AND FIELD DAY
IF YOU HAVE THEM, PLEASE CONTACT BUD, K4CWG!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APR.02 KB3GK JOHN MUNSEY
APR.02 KE4MFW WALLY GENTRY
APR.03 AA4FY NORM FOSTER
APR.04 KC4VMP JIM CLARK
APR.06 KS4BD DARWIN McCOMBS
APR.08 KE4HDF ANGIE DIMEO
APR.08 KF4FEY PENNY COPELAND
APR.10 KF4UN DAVE POST
APR.10 N0ZEQ RICHARD CRUMPTON
APR.10 KC4VWA ETHEL GRINER
APR.13 KE4YQF MARY LORENZI
APR.13 KF4LUA GWEN COLVIN
APR.18 N6USP BOBBY JONES
APR.22 WB4RIS JIM ROBINSON
APR.23 KC7TSG WILLIAM NORRIS
APR.23 W4BME JOHN LINK
APR.23 KT4CQ WILLIAM SIMANO
APR.30 KB4RBU VERN BAUER
APR.30 KD4LGI MIKE JACOBSON

PRESIDENT...from page 1
We enjoyed the visit by two of our club members from Auburn, Mass. - Joe and Bert, N1PAW and N1OGE. Due to the illness and passing of Bert's mom, their vacation had to be shortened. Bert's mom resided in Ellsworth, Maine. Bert, we are saddened to learn of the passing of your mother. Our thoughts are with you.

The gang will be at Quincy's restaurant next Thursday evening at 6:00 PM. Be sure and plan to be with us for the evening meal.

The club has enjoyed the company of our snow birds this winter. To those who will be going home or going to visit we wish you a safe trip and another wonderful stay. We want to hear from you while you are gone. A letter or e-mail to let us hear from you will be most welcome. My e-mail address is: bhughes@expedient.com

Hope to see you at the many club functions, and especially at the next meeting.

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER QUEST
By Paul Jordan KL0AN
(Son of Jo KE4AEB and Kay KE4MXF)

Well, it's February here in the Interior of Alaska and than can only mean one thing for local amateur radio operators... The Yukon Quest!!! The Quest is a sled dog race from Whitehorse, Canada to Fairbanks, Alaska. 1000 miles over terrain you wouldn't want to have to walk down on a sunny day - let alone the cold Arctic temperatures we have here in the Winter.

My wife, KL0DD and I, KL0AN manned a dog drop at North Pole, Alaska for one week. The dog drop is located about 35 miles from the finish line and is an official stop for mushers to be able to drop a tired or injured dog.

We used a Uniden mobile scanner hooked to electric power in my camper for monitoring the rest of the network of repeaters that were reporting on the progress of the race. We used our Radio Shack HT 202's for communications to the headquarters repeater 35 miles away. An old antenna pole with a small vertical antenna with 4 ground radials on it leaned up against my camper was the main antenna we used. The scanner was on a magnetic mount antenna on my bumper. I

was even able to reach the repeater on my ICOM 2AT at full (1 watt) of power!!

Our repeater network performed nearly perfect throughout the entire race (16 days for the last musher to finish). That is quite an accomplishment considering how much area is covered by our small club. To get an idea of how much area our network covers, please feel free to visit our repeater site at: http://fytqm.uafadm.alaska.edu/aarc/Repeat html The little flags on the map show miles along the highways. We cover 400 miles to the East (Canadian border) and 400 miles to the South (Anchorage). All of them can be linked back to Fairbanks. We are continually expanding our coverage to better communications throughout Alaska and into Canada.

I had an amusing encounter late one night when I took my dog out to play with her Frisbee (we call it freezebee up here). I stepped out of my camper and gave it a toss when all of a sudden I heard a very loud growl. Like most humans with a flash-light, I pointed it at the sound to see what was going to have me for dinner when I saw two of the largest dogs I've ever seen. Now, living here in Alaska with big bears, big moose and big fish, it takes a lot to impress someone with the size of an animal. The larger of the two dogs was a McKenzie River Husky that weighed in at 126 lbs.! His 7 month old puppy in the truck with him weighed 108 lbs. When I pointed that light they were in the back of a pickup truck and to tell you the truth, I don't think anything else could have fit in that bed. The larger of the two dogs is the current Alaska sled pulling champion and has been undefeated for three years. His last pull was in the neighborhood of 4000 lbs. Nice to have when you get stuck in the snow, huh?

If this type of adventure sounds challenging to you, I'm sure we can find a place for you in next years Yukon Quest. My father (KE4AEB) keeps promising to come up here and try it one year but, we'll see. If you're interested, drop me a line and we'll set you up. For now...73s

WHY DOES MY COMPUTER DO THAT?
By Max Cyber
From The Propogator
(West Palm Beach club newsletter)

Well, the holiday season is over, and I know some of you found a new computer under the tree this year. By now you have unpacked the new toy and are beginning to play with it. Before you get too involved in the cyber-world, let me give you something to think about.

The first item I want you to think about, is virus protection. You may not know this, but when you buy a new computer, the *antivirus* program is usually not configured - which means turned on and set up - for maximum protection. That's right, your computer is more than likely not fully protected from viruses.

Here's why. When a computer manufacturer buys software to market as preinstalled software to be sold with their computers, the manufacturer does not configure the software. It works like this: The hardware is made by one company, while the software is written by another company. The hardware manufacturer (brand X computer maker) buys the software from (brand Y software maker.) Brand X computer maker than installs brand Y's software in its computers. The computers are shipped to your local computer store, you buy one, and then you configure the software to meet your particular needs.

Further, your other utilities are not configured, either. *Utilities?* What are utilities? These are the maintenance programs which come with your computer system. The most important ones in Windows 3.1 are Antivirus, Defrag, and Scandisk. For Windows 95, the important utilities are: Antivirus, Defrag, Scandisk, and ERU (Emergency Recovery Utility). You can find information on

these and other utilities in the operator's manual that comes with your computer.

Back to the antivirus program; some people (myself included) like to configure their computer's antivirus program for maximum protection while others leave the program configured at original factory standards. The factory standards are usually set for minimum protection.

What is the difference between these two settings? Standard antivirus settings check only un-compressed programs. These are the programs which make up the main part of your computer software. My computer, for example, has a total of 8,300 programs and files. The standard setting for my antivirus program checks only 1,200 files, whereas the maximum setting checks all 8,300 files. Do the math and you will find that 1,200 is about 14.4% of the 8,300 total files contained in my system. This means, that with standard settings I would only be protecting 14% of my computer programs. Not good odds in a world full of cyber space *hackers*. These hackers know that most people have little or no virus protection, and they just love it.

What can you do to better protect your computer? There are three things I can recommend to you. 1) Be sure your computer is fully protected by configuring your antivirus program for optimum protection. 2) Upgrade your antivirus program at least once a year. There are new viruses created every day, and antivirus programs must be upgraded to recognize these new viruses. 3) Never - ever - run a program from a diskette in your 3.5" floppy drive unless you virus-check it first.

Before I close this month's column, I want to give you the definitions for some important terminology I have used in this column.

Antivirus: A program that recognizes computer viruses and then removes them from your computer.

Utility: Any program which is used to do specific functions related (in most cases) to the background operation of a computer.

Hacker: Any person who attempts to engage in illegal or unethical use of a computer, such as one who creates viruses, or tries to gain unauthorized access to computer files belonging to businesses, government, or to private citizens without the permission of the computer system's owner.

If you have any questions, send me an e-mail and I will try to answer your questions. E-mail to xenotype@juno.com. *Happy Computing.*

A LOW-COST, BROADBAND MOBILE ANTENNA

By Phil Salas, AD5X
From April QST

IF YOUR PRIMARY GOAL IN LIFE IS TO ACHIEVE THE FABLED 1:1 SWR ON ALL BANDS, THIS ANTENNA IS FOR YOU!

The most frustrating thing about operating HF mobile is the inability to easily change frequencies and bands while driving. On the lower bands (160/80/40 meters), you have to stop and retune your antenna as you move within a given band since the operating band width is so small. And then, of course, you have to stop and change antennas or coil taps to go from band to band. I've tried various "screwdriver" antennas, but they're big and still kind of a hassle to tune while driving. However, I've recently come up with a broadband (1.8 to 450 Mhz) mobile antenna that requires no tuning and will cost you less than $100! Interested?

FLASHBACK AND FORWARD: The idea for this antenna actually came to me as I was

reminiscing about my early years in ham radio. I started out my Novice days with a used Heathkit DX-40 transmitter that I obtained without the instruction manual. It seemed to make sense to me that I should adjust the transmitter for maximum plate current to get maximum power. After all, when I tuned up the radio this way, the 6146 output tube would glow very brightly!

>After a few weeks of making no contacts, I connected a light bulb to the transmitter output and found that minimum plate current corresponded to maximum transmitter power (even though this makes no sense at all - kind of like perpetual motion). However, while I was testing, I did make a local CW contact just using the light bulb as an antenna. I guess the filament in the bulb was acting as a "short wire" antenna.

>Now back to today. At a recent sidewalk sale, I picked up an MFJ-764 dry dummy load. This unit will handle 100 W continuously, and 1500 W for a few seconds at a time. I noticed that the dummy load had slots all over it. Since I know that there is such a thing as a "slot" antenna, and remembering my Novice light bulb contact, I decided to try to make a mobile antenna utilizing this device.

CONSTRUCTION: Start with a 1/8" diameter copper pipe seven feet long. Solder one end into a standard PL-259 connector. Use silver solder and a torch as this needs to be a strong connection. Since you will eventually need a second PL-259 mounted on this tube, now is a good time to put both PL-259 shells over the copper tube. Next, remove the outside dielectric and shield from a piece of RG-213. Insert the remaining dielectric and center conductor of the RG-213 coax through the copper tube into the soldered-on PL-259. Solder the center conductor to the PL-259 center pin. Now, mount the second PL-259 on the copper tube and solder the copper tube to the body. Solder the center conductor to the PL-259 center pin (see Figure 1). Now attach the MFJ-764 to the PL-259 at one end of the pipe, and attach the other end to your SO-239 mobile mount.

CONCLUSION: This amazing antenna has allowed me to get on the air and enjoy hamming again for the first time in years. Mobile operation is a breeze since the antenna seems to virtually eliminate ignition noise and other annoying garbage from my receiver - along with many annoying conversations. All that issues from my speaker is a soft, soothing hiss. I also enjoy 1:1 SWRs from 160 meters through 70 cm!

>Now that I'm active again, I notice that the bands seem awfully quiet. I hear very few signals at all. Still, I'm optimistic that things will pick up as solar activity increases over the next few years. See you on the air and on the road!

Phil AD5X, 1517 Creekside Dr., Richardson, TX 75081 or e-mail **psalas@aud.alcatel.com**

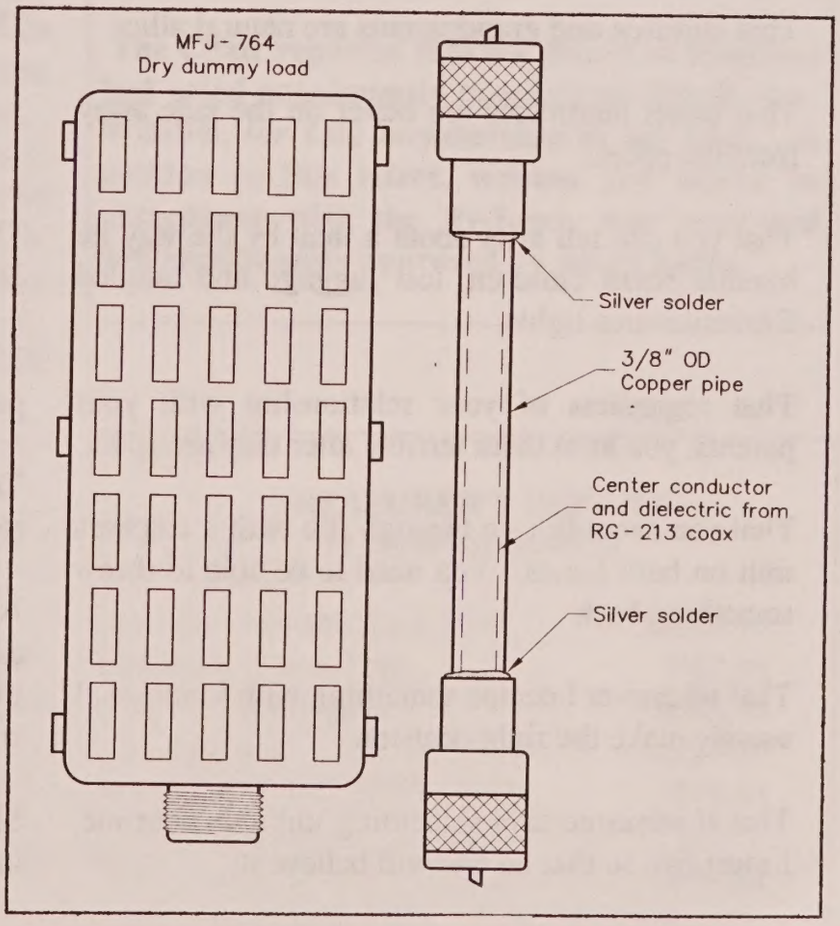

Figure 1—Individual components of the broadband mobile antenna.

ABELL'S ANECDOTES
By Pike W4EPU

Over the years I have been exposed to much more information than I could possibly have absorbed and retained. The following are some of the things I did retain.

I'VE LEARNED:

That silent company is often more healing than words of advice.

That wherever I go the world's worst drivers have accompanied me there.

That there are people who love you dearly but don't know how to show it.

That children and grandparents are natural allies.

That motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone.

That you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles small children, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

That regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they are gone.

That you shouldn't go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

That whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision.

That if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it.

That making a living is not the same as making a life.

That if you want to do something positive for your children, try to improve yourself.

That even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

That if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up.

That if you laugh and drink diet Pepsi at the same time, it will come out your nose, and you will sneeze.

That everyone can use a prayer.

That the older I get, the less attention I get.

And finally, I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

73s, es 88s

FROM BITS & PIECES

The ten most powerful two-letter words: IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME.

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. Dolly Parton

Those who can't laugh at themselves leave the job to others.

Anyone can become angry - that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way - that is not easy. Aristotle

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you'll be among the stars.

The will to win is not nearly as important as the will to prepare to win.

MARCH MEETING

By Nancy KD4ITX

The monthly meeting was called to order at 1905 hours by K4CWG Bud Hughes. There were 43 members and guests present. After the "Pledge", a moment of silence and introductions, Bill, W2SDB played Happy Birthday for all March birthdays. The members also enjoyed several other songs by Bill.

>Bill, W2SDB announced that IRARC will meet April 2 and will hold their annual white elephant sale. Proceeds will go to support the Joe Rubino Scholarship Fund.

>Pike, W4EPU announced the Space Coast Cycle Club rally will be held on May 3. They have asked the club for communication help within the repeater range. At the next club meeting he will ask for volunteers to help with this event. On April 27 there will be a meeting for the volunteers involved in this event. Pike then introduced Kenny Denman, KD4HNW as the guest speaker. Ken talked about the devastation he saw firsthand from the tornadoes that hit the Orlando area last month.

>Clyde, K4EOS said TARC is ARRL affiliated. To keep the club ARRL affiliated, members need to renew their membership to ARRL through the club. The club receives $2.00 for renewals and $5.00 for new members. Also, you can renew your subscription to Florida Skip through the club and the club will receive $2.00.

>After the snack break, a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the following new members into the club: KF4VIP Art Hensley; KB9LUW Ernest Johnson; KB9LUV Sylvia Johnson.

>It was decided the club will participate in Field Day. The treasurer was instructed to reserve a pavilion at Fox Lake Park for this event. Warren, AF4EA said he would be happy to help anyone wishing to take on the job of chairman for Field Day. He has all the paper work and will be glad to help where he can.

Board member Bob Nedimyer, W4VQB resigned last month. An election was held to fill his vacancy. Nominations were: KT4CQ, Bill; AF4HM, Bob; KF4NKL, Roe. KF4NKL, Roe Weaver was elected to be the new member of the Board of Directors.

>After having a chance to review copies of the audit report, members were asked to uphold the boards decision to approve the findings of the audit committee. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the report.

>With great sadness Bud announced the loss of club member Steve Griner, KS4YU.

>The meeting adjourned at 2040 hours

FROM THE MINUTES OF IRARC MARCH MEETING

The Chair reported that the Board of Directors had voted unanimously to nominate Bill Eppley, W2SDB, for Life membership in the Club. A petition to this effect, written and signed in accordance with the By-Laws, was presented and unanimously approved by secret ballot.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Clyde Lee, K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1997	$5356.73
Deposits Year to Date	1627.00
TOTAL INCOME	**6983.73**
Expenditures	1025.40
BALANCE AS AT 03/28/98	**5958.33**
FEMA Escrow	2363.75
BALANCE-CLUB FUNDS	**$3594.58**

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

HAPPY EASTER!!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 267 (198 regular, 63 family, 6 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: KB9LUW ERNEST JOHNSON
KB9LUV SYLVIA JOHNSON

RENEWALS:
KE4AEB JO JORDAN
KE4MXF KAY JORDAN
KT4CP BUCK THORNE
KE4TTZ SANDY THORNE
N2CTQ KIY GEBCIREKKU
N2USO MARIE GENCORELLI
KE4HJQ RON MORGAN
AA4HP HANK PHILLIPS
KD4JMX STEPHANIE PHILLIPS
KF4JI CARL CHRISTIAN
W0LRC COFFEE COFFMAN
KEEGV CHARMAINE COFFMAN
W8OFR GENE HALL
KT4RG TIMOTHY HAYES
KC4TE GENE MANN
K2TNT GEORGE FISCHER
KF4UN DAVE POST
KD4VFU JACK HALL
KE4RFJ DEBBIE BUTTON
KR4YZ CHARLES FAGEL

HAMFESTS:

APR. 3	FANNING SPRINGS
APR. 11	CORAL GABLES
APR 24/25	GAINESVILLE
OCT. 4	MAITLAND
OCT. 10/11	TAMPA
NOV. 7	SORRENTO